(c) whether the fertilizer decontrol is being contemplated under pressure from the International Monetary Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) The phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were removed from price and movement control w.e.f. 25.8.1992. Nitrogenous fertilizers are still under price and movement control and, at present, there is no proposal to decontrol nitrogenous fertilizers.

Production and consumption of essential drugs

3585. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far undertaken any survey pertaining to production of life saving essential drugs vis-a-vis consumption thereof during the last three years;

(b) whether any revision in the prices of these drugs have been approved by Government so far, if so, the details thereof and if not, whether any survey to study many-fold increase in prices thereof has been conducted during the period January to November, 1992; and

(c) whether there is any difference between the prices as recommended by the BICP and those notified/approved by Government during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The actual production for 1989-90 and 1990-91 and estimated demand for 1990-91 and 1991-92 of monitored drugs is available in the Annual Report of 1991-92 of the Department of C & PC which is placed in the Library of Parliament House. The demand has been met through indigenous production as well as, imports, wherever necessary.

(b) and (c) The prices of price controlled drugs are fixed/revised by the Government on the basis of cost-cum-technical studies conducted by BICP, escalation formula provided by BICP in their reports and in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1987. The BICP reports are inputs for decision making in the process of price fixation. These reports are confidential in nature. The revision in prices of drugs is an ongoing exercise. These increases are allowed to avoid shortages and ensure the availability at reasonable prices. The names of bulk drugs whose prices have been revised during the period January to November, 1992, with their previous prices and revised prices were given in respect of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3807 answered on 3rd December, 1992.

Exemption of drug products of M/s. Hoechst from Price Control

3586. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Glybenclamide Petoxyphylline and a number of other drugs produced by M/s. Hoechst do not qualify for exemption from price control and inclusion in non-scheduled category based on the criteria of Kelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Hoechst virtually enjoy monopoly in these drugs and that they are charging exorbitant prices;

(d) whether it is a fact that these drugs have been kept outside price control under the new proposed Drug Policy; and

(c) what steps have been taken to conduct an enquiry into the whole matter and to fix the responsibility?